

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

ORDER NO. \_\_\_\_\_

RESCINDING  
CEASE AND DESIST ORDER NO. 5-01-003  
FOR  
TA OPERATING CORPORATION  
BLUE BEACON U.S.A., L.P. AND TEJON RANCHCORP  
TRAVELCENTERS OF AMERICA COMPLEX  
KERN COUNTY

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, (hereafter Regional Board) finds that:

1. TA Operating Corporation, doing business as (dba) TravelCenters of America, operates a Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) near Wheeler Ridge in Kern County. The WWTF is in Section 31, T11N, R19W, SBB&M. Blue Beacon U.S.A., L.P., dba Blue Beacon, owns and operates a truck wash at the Travel Centers of America complex. Tejon Ranchcorp owns the property and leases it to TA Operating Corporation and Blue Beacon. Throughout the rest of this Order, Discharger refers to TA Operating Corporation and Blue Beacon, collectively.
2. The WWTF treats about 25,000 gallons per day (gpd) of domestic wastewater and approximately 16,000 gpd of Blue Beacon truck wash wastewater. The WWTF is designed to treat a peak flow of 70,000 gpd. The WWTF consists of a flow meter, a manual bar screen, a primary pond with aerators, a polishing pond to facilitate settling and biological degradation of wastes, and a series of evaporation/percolation ponds. In the past, wastewater discharged at the complex consistently exhibited high salinity primarily due to excessive inorganic compounds in the wastewater contributed by water softeners and truck wash wastewater. Consequently, the electrical conductivity (EC) of the discharge was consistently about two to three times the EC of the water supply well, which has an EC of approximately 2000  $\mu$ mhos/cm.
3. The TA complex has a storm water pond adjacent to the truck fueling station that receives all storm water runoff from the site. The storm water pond also received approximately 200 gallons per day of wash down water from the diesel islands and a truck maintenance shop. An inspection by Kern County Environmental Health Services revealed stains of black oil on the sides of the storm water pond and oil sheen on the water surface. During further investigation, the cause was found to be wash down water from the truck maintenance shop and a faulty oil-water separator.
4. The discharge of wastewater to the unlined settling and evaporation/percolation ponds at the WWTF described in Finding 2 contained waste constituents in concentrations in excess of the water quality objectives of the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Tulare Lake Basin, Second Edition* (Basin Plan). Discharges from both Blue Beacon and TA contributed to the high EC.

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5. Presently, the following Orders regulate the discharge from the WWTF:

<u>Order No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Adoption Date</u>
5-01-002	Waste Discharge Requirements	26 January 2001
5-01-003	Cease and Desist Order	26 January 2001

6. Discharge Specification B.6 of Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 5-01-002 states “[t]he maximum conductivity of the discharge shall not exceed the average EC of the source water plus 500 µmhos/cm. When the source water is from more than one source, its EC shall be determined from the weighted average of all sources.”
7. Discharge Specification C.1 of Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 5-01-002 states “[t]he discharge shall not exceed a daily maximum oil and grease limitation of 35 mg/l.”
8. Cease and Desist Order No. 5-01-003 required the Discharger to achieve compliance with Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 5-01-002 by implementing specific tasks in accordance with a time schedule, which included submitting plans and implementing a corrective action for salinity control. The Cease and Desist Order required full compliance with Discharge Specifications B.6 and C.1 by 15 May 2001.
9. Regional Board staff review of technical reports and self-monitoring reports submitted by the Discharger confirms that necessary corrections and improvements were made, though not by the prescribed deadline, and since 2004 the Discharger has been in consistent compliance with Discharge Specifications B.6 and C.1 of Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 5-01-002.
10. The issuance of this Order is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq.), in accordance with Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Section 15321.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that Cease and Desist Order No. 5-01-003 is rescinded.

I, THOMAS R. PINKOS, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region on \_\_\_\_\_.

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THOMAS R. PINKOS, Executive Officer